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EXAMINER

LAM, ANDREW H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2624	

DATE MAILED: 01/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/989,340

Applicant(s)

PARRY, TRAVIS J.

Examiner

Andrew H. Lam

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: an Amendment filed on 11/07/05.
- Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-20 are amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaira et al (U.S. 6,750,982) hereinafter Takaira.

Regarding claim 1, Takaira discloses a method of distributing data from an e-mail enabled printer (fig. 2, schematic of printer 2, which can send/receive email), said method comprising: retrieving an at least one print job data file (col. 3, lines 30-34, the software for the printer driver and the file "method for setting the printer" is attached to the email) from a memory of said e-mail enabled printer (col. 3, lines 24-25, data storing unit 14 for storing email addresses, which the user can retrieve by using the operation panel unit 18); attaching said at least one print job data file to an e-mail (col. 3, lines 33-34, attach printer driver to email message); sending said e-mail and attached at least one print job data file to an e-mail enabled device (col. 3, lines 40-42, the email is send to the email server connected to network N) ; and storing at least said attached at least one print job data file in a job retention memory of said e-mail enabled device (col. 3,

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lines 40-42, the email is send to the email server connected to network N--it is inherent that the server is a PC, which has memory to retain the email body and attachment sent from the printer 2).

Takaira does not disclose expressly that the attached file is a print job data file.

At the time of the invention, it is well known in the art that an email attachment file can be printed therefore making the file a print job data file.

Regarding claim 2, Takaira discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein said retrieving said at least one print job data file from said memory of said e-mail enabled printer comprises retrieving data from a job retention memory of said e-mail enabled printer (col. 3, lines 30-34, the data storing unit 14 store data for using the printer such as "method of setting the printer" and "location of which the printer is placed" and printer driver all of which is send to the PCs 4 via network N, see fig. 1).

Regarding claim 3, Takaira discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein said retrieving said at least one print job data file from said from a memory of said e-mail enabled printer is initiated using a device in communication with said e-mail enabled printer (col. 3, lines 43-46, the operational panel unit 18 is used to attach and send email).

Regarding claim 4, Takaira discloses the method according to claim 3, wherein said device in communication with said e-mail enabled printer includes a network device (fig. 1, network N) selected from a group consisting of a workstation (fig. 1, workstations 4A, 4B, and 4C), an e-mail enabled printer (fig. 1, email enable printers 2A and 2B), and an e-mail server (col. 3, lines 40-42, the email is send to the email server connected to

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network N).

Regarding claim 5, Takaira discloses the method according to claim 1, further comprising creating an e-mail for attaching said at least one print job data file to, (col. 3, lines 33-34, attach printer driver to email message), said e-mail including an e-mail address (col. 4, lines 1-2, email addresses are inputted via the operational panel unit 18).

Regarding claim 6, Takaira discloses the method according to claim 5, wherein said creating said e-mail for attaching said at least one print job data file to comprises: providing a list of available e-mail addresses (col. 4, lines 12-13, the control unit 12 fetches the email addresses of the PCs 4); selecting at least one of said available e-mail addresses (col. 4, lines 1-2, email addresses are inputted via the operational panel unit 18); and creating an e-mail addressed to each of said selected at least one available e-mail addresses (col. 4, lines 15-16, sends electronic mail based on the addresses).

Regarding claim 7, Takaira discloses the method according to claim 6, wherein said providing said list of available e-mail addresses comprises: retrieving a list of stored e-mail addresses from a memory of said e-mail enabled printer (col. 4, lines 12-13, storing unit 14 stores the email addresses for the PCs 4); and displaying said list of stored e-mail addresses for selection (col. 4, lines 1-2, email addresses are inputted via the operational panel unit 18).

Regarding claim 8, Takaira discloses the method according to claim 5, wherein said creating said e-mail for attaching said at least one print job data file to comprises: retrieving at least one e-mail address entered by a user; and creating an e-mail

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addressed to said at least one e-mail address entered by said user (col. 4, lines 1-2, email addresses are inputted via the operational panel unit 18--examiner is interpreting operational panel unit 18 as a GUI where a user can retrieve email addresses from list or manually enter email addresses).

Regarding claim 9, Takaira discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein said attaching said at least one print job data file to said e-mail created by said e-mail enabled printer comprises attaching said at least one print job data file to an e-mail addressed to at least one designated e-mail address col. 4, lines 15-16, sends electronic mail based on the addresses).

Regarding claim 10, Takaira discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein said sending said e-mail and said attached at least one print data file to said e-mail enabled device comprises sending said e-mail and said attached at least one print job data file from said e-mail enabled printer to a network device (fig. 1, network N) selected from the group consisting of a workstation (fig. 1, workstations 4A, 4B, and 4C), an e-mail enabled printer (fig. 1, email enable printers 2A and 2B), and an e-mail server (col. 3, lines 40-42, the email is send to the email server connected to network N).

Regarding claim 16, Takaira discloses a system (fig. 1, a system for connecting printers with PCs) for distributing data, comprising: a network (fig. 1, network N); and at least one e-mail enabled printer for communicating over said network (fig. 1, printers 2A and 2B are email enable printers), said e-mail enabled printer comprising at least one microprocessor for operating said e-mail enabled printer (fig. 2, control unit 12 control the operation of the email enable printer for sending and receiving email); a display

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panel for displaying print job and related data (fig. 2, operational unit 18), and a job retention memory for storing said print jobs and said related data (col. 3, lines 30-34, the software for the printer driver and the file "method for setting the printer" is attached to the email) for distribution (fig. 2, user data storing unit for storing data).

Takaira does not disclose expressly that the attached file is a print job data file.

At the time of the invention, it is well known in the art that an email attachment file can be printed therefore making the file a print job data file.

Regarding claim 17, Takaira discloses the system according to claim 16, wherein said e-mail enabled printer further comprises a control panel for selecting said print jobs and related data from said print jobs and related data displayed on said display device (fig. 2, operational unit 18, col. 4, line 1, operational unit 18, is used for various data setting).

Regarding claim 18, Takaira discloses the system according to claim 16, further comprising, said print jobs and said related data stored in said job retention memory (fig. 2, user data storing unit 14, col. 3, lines 30-34 stores files and printer driver).

Regarding claim 19, Takaira discloses the system according to claim 16, wherein said e-mail enabled printer further comprises at least one list of e-mail addresses for displaying on said display device (col. 4, lines 12-13, the control unit 12 fetches the email addresses of the PCs 4, which is then display to the user at operational panel unit 18).

Regarding claim 20, Takaira discloses the system according to claim 16, further comprising: an Internet connection for communicating with said network (fig. 1, network

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N, it is well known in the art that an email servers has to use some type of protocol such as SMTP which uses an Internet for sending and receiving email); an e-mail server for communicating with said network (col. 3, lines 40-42, the email is send to the email server connected to network N); and at least one workstation for communication with said network (fig. 1, workstations 4A, 4B and 4C are connected via network N).

Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaira in view of Kageyama et al (U.S. 6,567,180) hereinafter Kageyama.

Regarding claim 11, Takaira discloses a method of distributing email comprising: creating an e-mail (fig. 2, operational panel unit 18, is used to composed the email); attaching said selected at least a file to said e-mail (col. 3, lines 33-34, attach printer driver to email message); and sending said e-mail for distributing (col. 3, lines 40-42, the email is send to the email server connected to network N).

Takaira does not disclose expressly that the attachment is a print job retained at the printer.

Kageyama discloses that print job can be archive at the printer (see fig. 5, archive 2220).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Takaira as per teaching of Kageyama because by retaining print job in an archive at the printer it would have been simple to recall the document for re-print (col. 8, line 51) in such case that a print failure occurred.

Regarding claim 12, Takaira discloses the method according to claim 11, wherein e-mail enabled printer can send attached file via email to another e-mail

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enabled printer (fig. 2, electronic mail sending/receiving unit 20).

Takaira does not disclose expressly that the attachment is a print job retained at the printer.

Kageyama discloses that print job can be archive at the printer (see fig. 5, archive 2220).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Takaira as per teaching of Kageyama because by retaining print job in an archive at the printer it would have been simple to recall the document for re-print (col. 8, line 51) in such case that a print failure occurred. Furthermore, by sending the print job via email from said printer A to printer B when printer A is out of ink printer B can process the job in order to save down time.

Regarding claim 13, Takaira discloses the method according to claim 11, wherein said creating said e-mail comprises: retrieving a list of available e-mail addresses from said memory of said e-mail enabled printer (col. 4, lines 12-13, the control unit 12 fetches the email addresses of the PCs 4); selecting at least one e-mail address from said retrieved list of available e-mail addresses (col. 4, lines 1-2, email addresses are inputted via the operational panel unit 18); and addressing an e-mail with said selected at least one e-mail address (col. 4, lines 15-16, sends electronic mail based on the addresses).

Regarding claim 14, Takaira discloses the method according to claim 11, wherein said creating said e-mail comprises: entering at least one e-mail address into said e-mail enabled printer using a control panel of said e-mail enabled printer (col. 4, lines 1-

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2, email addresses are inputted via the operational panel unit 18); and addressing an e-mail with said at least one entered e-mail address (col. 4, lines 15-16, sends electronic mail based on the addresses).

Regarding claim 15, Takaira discloses the method according claim 11, wherein said selecting at least one of said one or more print jobs stored in said memory of said e-mail enabled printer for distribution comprises: retrieving a list of files stored in said memory of said e-mail enabled printer from said memory (fig. 2, user data storing unit 14, used to store files and print driver); displaying said list of files stored in said memory; providing a control panel for selecting at least one of said files and selecting at least one of said files using said control panel (fig. 2, operation panel unit 18, allows user to select file and attach to email).

Takaira does not disclose expressly that the attachment is a print job retained at the printer.

Kageyama discloses that print job can be archive at the printer (see fig. 5, archive 2220).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Takaira as per teaching of Kageyama because by retaining print job in an archive at the printer it would have been simple to recall the document for re-print (col. 8, line 51) in such case that a print failure occurred.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments on pages 7-11, filed 11/07/05, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-10 and 16-20 under 102(e) and claims 11-15 under 103(a) have been fully considered and are not persuasive.

Regarding claims 1, 11 and 16, the applicant argued the cited prior art (U.S. Patent No. 6,750,982, Takaira) fails to teach and/or suggest "attaching said at least one print job data file to an e-mail".

In response to applicant's argument Takaira discloses in col. 3, lines 30-34, the software for the printer driver and the file "method for setting the printer" is attached to the email.

Takaira does not disclose expressly that the attached file is a print job data file.

At the time of the invention, it is well known in the art that an email attachment file can be printed therefore making the attached file a print job data file.

Contact Information

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew H. Lam whose telephone number is (571) 272-8569. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
